

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-04 SAM-01 NSC-05 OPR-02 PA-01

PRS-01 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 /047 W

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O 101105Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4320

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1257

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OVIP (SHAIKH SULTAN OF SHARJAH)

SUBJECT : SHAIKH SULTAN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

FOR ASST SECY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

1. WE ARE PLEASED THAT WORTHWHILE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR SHAIKH SU TAN IN WASHINGTON. BELIEVE DEPT. HAS UP-TO-DATE BIO DATA ON SULTAN AND THAT NOTHING OF IMPORTANCE NEEDS TO BE ADDED FROM HERE IN THIS RESPECT.

2. ALTHOUGH SULTAN HAS NO OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE WILL PROBABLY FIND OCCASION SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN TO BRIEF SHAIKH ZAYED ON HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON. I SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT YOU SPEND GOOD PORTION OK YOUR LIMITED TIME WITH HIM EXPLAINING STATUS OF ARAB-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS AND US EFFORTS TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS. AMONG LEADERS IN UAE, SULTAN ALTHOUGH YOUNG AND EDUCATED IN CAIRO, IS NOT AN ARAB ZEALOT. WHILE HE UNDOUBTEDLY SYMPATHIZES IN GENERAL WAY WITH ARAB CAUSE, HE BASICALLY SEES ARAB-ISRAEL DISPUTE AS SOMETHING FAR FROM HIS SHORES, AND HE HAS SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT SHAIKH ZAYED'S TENDENCY TO GET INVOLVED MORE THAN HE NEEDS TO IN AFFAIRS OF CONFRONTATION STATES. HE HAS SENSIBLE UNDERSTANDING OF NEGOTIATING REALITIES OF ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM.

3. BEYOND THIS, IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO QUESTION

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SHAIKH SULTAN ABOUTNUMBER OF ASPECTS OF LOCAL UAE SCENE:

(#)

IS HIS REACTION TO "UNIFICATION" OF UAE MILITARY
FORCES JUST ANNOUNCED HERE (SEE ABU DHABI 1258); HOW
DOES HE SEE FUTURE EVOLUTION OF INTERNAL UAE POLITICAL

(#)

DOES HE SEE ANY OTHER SIGNS IN
UNBRIDLED ECONOMIC COMPETITION AMONG THE EMIRATES (TOO
MANY DEEP-WATER PORTS AND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS, ETC.)?
ON SLIGHTLY BROADER FRONT, WHAT DOES HE THINK OF PROS-
PECTS FOR JOINT CURRENCY AMONG UAE, QATAR, BAHRAIN AND
QATAR, AND DOES HE THINK THIS WILL LAY FOUNDATIONS FOR
EVENTUAL POLITICAL INTEGRATION AMONG THESE STATES?

4. I ALSO HOPE YOU WILL TAKE OCCASION TO EXPRESS OUR
APPRECIATION FOR ESPECIALLY WARM ATMOSPHERE SHAIKH SULTAN
HAS CREATED FOR AMERICAN FIRMS TO DO BUSINESS IN HIS
EMIRATE. WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN ON OUR SIDE TO
ENCOURAGE INTEREST IN SHARJAH.

5. SINCE I AM HOPING SHORTLY TO SEE SHAIKH ZAYED,
AND MAY HAVE OCCASION TO TALK WITH HIM ABOUT ARAB-
ISRAEL SITUATION ALONG LINES OF DEPT'S RECENT HELPFUL
GUIDANCE, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING REPORT OF YOUR
CONVERSATION WITH SULTAN BY TELEGRAM.
STERNER

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) OMISSIONS. CORRECTIONS TO FOLLOW.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ABUDH01257
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760181-0029
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760574/aaaacbf.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 04 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHAIKH SULTAN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON FOR ASST SECY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR
TAGS: OVIP, (SHAIKH SULTAN OF SHARJAH), (SHAIKH SULTAN)
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006